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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Guy Wallace, SER Wildlife Manager

DATE: August 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Bison Management Plan for Henry Mountains

A Henry Mountains Bison Plan committee was formed and, in conjunction with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), has updated and revised the bison management plan approved in 2007. If approved, the new plan will guide the management of bison on the Henry Mountains for the next 10 years.

Below is a summary of the major updates to the bison management plan:

1. This plan provides guidance and direction for managing the bison population on the Henry Mountains.
2. The plan includes updates to the management goals, objectives and strategies based on input from the committee.
3. The most recent research studies and findings were added to the plan.
4. No change was made to the population goal for adult bison numbers after the hunting seasons have concluded.
5. Changes were made to the population strategies to consider habitat conditions based on the U.S. Drought Monitor in recommending permit numbers to the RACs and Wildlife Board.
6. The plan calls for continued monitoring bison movements and use areas using satellite radio-collars.
7. The plan allows UDWR to pursue opportunities to improve genetic heterozygosity by supplementing the bison population from other genetically pure and disease-free herds.
8. The plan directs the UDWR and its partners to implement strategies to achieve a distribution of bison that better utilizes available habitat and minimizes conflicts.
9. The plan calls for maintaining high quality hunting opportunities for bison by minimizing hunter crowding and maintaining high hunt success rates.
10. The plan also calls for utilizing hunting strategies that minimize early movements of bison on to winter ranges.

11. The plan encourages the use of all media platforms to increase public awareness and education of this unique wildlife resource in our state and expand opportunities for public viewing.
12. The plan provides an updated list of potential habitat projects to help resolve conflicts with livestock.